

JOHN WESLEY RADABAUGH TO MACK

Knoxville Ills., January 21, 1859

Dear Cousin (if you will permit me to assume the term cousin)

I received your kind address not long since and now avail myself of the opportunity of returning my sincere thanks by writing a few lines in return for those which you was so kind as to send me. We are strangers or have been heretofore but I trust we may by way of friendly correspondence become to a great extent acquainted with each other. It seems as though providence is his infinite wisdom has been pleased to give to each of his subjects a mind which invariably differ in respect to the person to whom it belongs as no two strictly speaking can see the same rainbow at the same time when viewed from different points. So it is that no two correctly speaking from the same family have the same mind or disposition if I may so term it. Admitting this to be the case you will readily coincide with me that I am different disposed to that of any other one of the family. My disposition is rather a prodigal one which has led me to stray from my Father's Home and depend upon the mercies of the people for support. Though a chip of the old block I still retain withal a disposition to pick up a livelihood and with a little industry and economy make out to pick up a living also. My occupation at present is school teaching this I have followed for nearly four years which although not a very pleasant trade is a very respectable one. My present term of school is within two weeks of its expiration. You will readily perceive from the perusal of this that I am not at all an interesting letter writer especially when writing to one of whom I have no acquaintance. Tell Mary Ellen that I have not emigrated to the state of matrimony yet nor do I expect to soon I rather think of living and old Bachelor all my life and dying an old Maid Tell Uncle and Aunt that in this letter I send my sincerest love to them. I would be happy to have a few lines from them. Tell all my cousins so and that I would like to see them all. Please excuse my poor writing. I have a bad pen to write with poor ink and a poor scribe to use them. Please answer this as soon as you receive it. Direct your letter to Knoxville Knox County Illinois. as to news I know none at present which would be interesting. Excuse my short epistle. Your Truly,

Good by.

From Your Cousin
John W. Radabaugh

Note: The writer was John Wesley Radabaugh, son of John Radabaugh, brother of Susanna Radabaugh Ewing and others. The Uncle and Aunt he referred to were Enoch and Susanna Ewing. The Mary Ellen he mentioned was his own sister. John Wesley Radabaugh was born in 1833 and was seven [eight] years older than his cousin Henry to whom the letter was written.

AEE 3-30-1931

Note: Between 1835 and 1837 Susannah's brothers, Henry and Samuel Radabaugh, started farms on a combined 344 acres in Williams County, Ohio, snuggled in the distant northwest corner of Ohio and just below the fertile, gentle hills of southern Michigan. Before long, sons of Enoch and Susannah would leave Jackson, Ohio, and head in the same direction.